

ABC NEWS THIS MORNING

1 February 1984

CAMPAIGN '84/  
CIA BRIEFING

AARON: Two days after President Reagan announced he was running for reelection, the CIA director he appointed outlined some of the agency's successes. Senior correspondent John Scali reports.

SCALI: The usually silent CIA is publicizing some of its major successes of the past three years, but top officials say the timing is not connected in any way with the start of President Reagan's reelection campaign. CIA Director Casey, who was chairman of the Reagan political campaign in 1980, called a special briefing for reporters, his first since taking office, to emphasize how much stronger CIA is now than during the days of the Carter administration. Some 800 more covert agents are now at work, he said, with more CIA outposts overseas, more analysts, and superior reporting. He pictured the Soviet KGB as now on the defensive, struggling to cope with CIA's anti-communist operations around the world. Casey skid very lightly over CIA shortcomings, such as failure to warn in advance of terrorist bombings. All in all, a very upbeat report. Officials at the Republican National Committee said they wouldn't be at all surprised if some of Casey's conclusions wound up in a political speech or two, even though, they said, he never intended to produce campaign ammunition. John Scali, ABC News, Washington.